

# 20 FABULOUS FEATURES

THAT MAKE THIS OAKVILLE HOUSE A HOME

STORY **JOYCE TURNER-GIONET** | PHOTOGRAPHY **JASON HARTOG**

**T**rite, perhaps, but true: Life is a journey.

Most of us don't live in the same house our entire lives. In Pam and Vern's case, their ravine home, built into a hill on the banks of the Credit River, sat on more than half an acre of forest with terraced gardens. After many years, it was time for a change.

Before giving you a close-up on their new home's stand-out features, a bit of background. The home was the creation of builder **Pat Gasparro**

of **Gasparro Custom Homes** and custom home designer **David Small** of **David Small Designs**. The bright, contemporary, open-concept space and manageable lot appealed to the house-hunting Pam and Vern. The only thing needed was their personal stamp on the interior. With enough energy for two people, a pronounced artistic streak and help from decorator **Michelle Berwick** of **The Mirror and the Drape Design**, Pam took it from house to home in under eight weeks.



## The home designer's take: David Small

**1** "Pam and Vern's home epitomizes transitional design, it's a balance of modern and traditional in both the details and overall composition," says David.

**2** "The front facade is traditional – peaked symmetrical rooflines with curved dormers. The rear elevation is contemporary – clean lines, rows of

windows and connections to the exterior."

**3** "The home transitions from traditional to contemporary as you move through the space. Modern details on the facade, like the dark-framed recta-linear windows, no shutters or gable adornment and a boxed portico, hint at the contemporary journey you embark on when you open the front door."

## The builder's take: Pat Gasparro

**4** Notice the creamy crown moulding underscoring roof peaks. It emphasizes the multi-tones of the Wiarton stone. With a hint of French country, it's a classic exterior that will never go out of style.

**5** "We saved the two gorgeous old sycamore trees. Their soldierly positioning, flanking the property, is picture perfect – we couldn't have done it better if we'd planted them," says Pat.

**6** A beautiful outdoor living space is a hallmark of Gasparro Custom Homes. The covered porch has an outdoor kitchen and gas fireplace. Indiana stone on the floor and dove-grey-stained cedar on the ceiling add rustic appeal. It's a space for entertaining, so porch depth is six inches larger than standard with doors from Pella Windows & Doors that open wide.

**7** The Velux skylight – dual panels in a non-vaulted design – spills light across both upper and lower levels.



8

Millwork panelling is wood, not drywall. Benjamin Moore furniture paint was used to achieve the high-end furniture finish.

Continued on page 44

Old meets new in the dining room where elegant new drapes and lighting blend well with the timeless dining set.





**9** The kitchen showcases classic elements like millwork detailing on the island's edges. Lighted glass cabinets can display treasures while appliances are hidden behind custom panelling.



The servery draws on the lovely grey tones used throughout the home.



**10** "In keeping with the home's classic exterior, we dressed the mudroom's curb-side entrance with stone pillars and a wall feature."

**11** The staircase makes a statement. Wide treads, accentuated by wrought iron, are runner-free, emphasizing the soaring open concept.

**12** In the family room, the 14-foot ceiling and tall windows topped with elegant mullions add a grandness to the room that the homeowners love. *Continued on page 46*







**13** The master bath speaks to luxury, particularly the heated Statuario Venato polished porcelain tiles. "I added a full-width window and avoided the typical tub-in-front-of-the-window placement, which would have broken the room's beautiful lines," says Pat. "It has a luxury 24-by-24-inch Zuchetti rainhead shower."



**15** Vern's main floor office is a masculine space with dark wood built-ins that contrast well with the new lacquered zebra desk from Martin Daniel Interiors. The floor's South American stitched patchwork cowhide lightens the space.

**16** Think "mud lounge," because the word "room" doesn't do it justice! Bench upholstery is from Tonic Living in Snow Leopard Silver with a shimmer. Colourful piped cushions stand up to grandkids and Byron, the couple's pretty pampered poodle. *Continued on page 48*



*The decorator's take:  
Michelle Berwick*

It wasn't in with the new and out with the old. "Pam had many beautiful pieces and lots of memories in photographs and accessories she wanted to showcase. We used about 90 per cent of what she had, with just a little recovering and refurbishing and a few special purchases," says Michelle.

**14** Thinking outside the box! A spare room was turned into Pam's dressing room. An oversize white filigreed mirror leans against a wall, a focal point in the feminine space. "Down the road, I'll add a chandelier," laughs Pam.



« Laundry is a lovely affair in this spacious alcove.





**17** Pam doesn't "do stuffy" and bold graphics on the living room's scoop armchairs from The Art Shoppe are a testament. Brass lamps are Barbara Barry. Brought out of storage, the 35-year old glass-top table is still en vogue. The Ethan Allen horse was picked up on a road trip, years ago. "Decorating should tell personal stories," says Michelle.

**18** The family room, on page 45, takes its style cue from Wayne Mondok's acrylic beachscape... watery glass accessories and sea foam green, olive and gold perk the neutral palette. Ottomans are from J & J Made Studio. Sidetables are from Urban Barn. Drapery panels are motorized – a hit with the grandkids who take turns with the remote. *Continued on page 50*



CUSTOM LEATHER & FABRIC FURNITURE  
SECTIONALS & SOFAS  
MADE TO FIT EVERY ROOM



 CUSTOM MADE  
IN CANADA

Mississauga Home and Design Centre • 2575 Dundas St. W., Mississauga • 905.569.9898 • [www.rawhideint.com](http://www.rawhideint.com)

Shakespeare would be in Love with Downie Lofts



Old World Charm With  
New World Comfort  
Luxury Residential Condos  
In Downtown Stratford

Juliet Balconies • Stunning Lofts  
Exposed Beam • Original Brick • Elevator  
Fibre Optics • Secure Entrance  
Overlooking the Avon Theatre

Let Us Entertain You On A Personal Tour  
Contact John & Terri Hart  
Peak Realty Ltd. Brokerage  
519.272.4865 • 519.874.1999





19 There's no lower-level feeling here with eight-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows and window wells that showcase exterior stonework.


20 Bring on the popcorn! Comfy leather seating for seven.

The homeowners' take: Pam & Vern

"David is a wonderful home designer and Pat builds a beautiful home. Together, they gave Vern and me a timeless foundation," says Pam. Michelle has layered family life on top of that foundation. Now it's time to sit back and enjoy. "I have my spaces, Vern has his and we have spaces where we come together as a couple and with our children, grandchildren and friends. There's still work to do, but it already feels like home." OH



GASPARRO  
CONSTRUCTION CO.



Turn Your Vision into Reality.  
[www.gasparrohomes.com](http://www.gasparrohomes.com)  
[Twitter] [Facebook] [Pinterest] [Google+]

vinylbilt  
WINDOWS & DOORS  
BILT BETTER

saleAbrating 18 years in Oakville

trust in  
Oakville's  
oldest  
window store

905.827.3331  
fasada.ca

fasada  
WINDOWS - DOORS - COVERINGS  
Since 1999

IN SUPPORT OF  
SickKids  
FOUNDATION

BBB  
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

corner of Bronte Rd  
& Dundas, Oakville



SHADES of HOME  
Beautifully Designed Window Treatments and Window Coverings  
OAKVILLE: 1200 Speers Rd. TORONTO: 900 Caledonia Rd.  
905.827.8555 [www.shadesofhome.ca](http://www.shadesofhome.ca) 416.787.8555

